

her retirement from Granite United Way of New Hampshire. Rolanda is embarking on a well-earned retirement after 33 years as a dedicated public servant, working to help her neighbors in need of assistance in New Hampshire's North Country. Be it flood or fire, hunger or shelter, dislocation or disaster, Rolanda's efforts at the United Way have brought relief and hope to hundreds of people in distress.

Rolanda served for almost 30 years as the Executive Director of United Way of Northern New Hampshire, until it merged with the other regional United Way organizations throughout the state to become Granite United Way. Since then, she has served as Director of Community Impact for the Northern Region.

Rolanda's commitment to service does not stop with her day job. She is the town welfare officer in her community of Milan, a Justice of the Peace, and a Notary Public. She is on the Advisory Board of Health and Human Services at White Mountain Community College, a Fellow at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute, and a Member of the New Hampshire Charitable Trust's North Country Board.

During her tenure in the North Country, Rolanda has witnessed a rash of mill closings, high unemployment, natural disasters, and an economy in freefall. Yet even when it affected her own family, she did everything in her power to meet the needs of the communities around her. People were warm during the cold winters, food banks were well-stocked for the hungry, and children had clothes for school.

Her life in service is one that is rarely matched. Thus, it is my honor to recognize and thank Rolanda for her outstanding citizenship and service to her neighbors, the Granite State, and the United States. I wish her a happy retirement and wish her the best of luck on the adventures to come.

#### COMMEMORATING THE SAMOAN EXILES

#### HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 1, 2015*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 20 a group of seventy-two Samoans who were exiled from their home to my home, the Northern Mariana Islands, will receive the ceremonial farewell they were never given—one hundred years late.

Allow me to add the story of their exile to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, where it may be held in trust and remembered. And let me acknowledge the work of historian Scott Russell in assembling these details.

In May 1909, the seventy-two Samoans, 10 chiefs, their families and servants were exiled to the island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands by the governor of German Samoa Wilhelm Solf. These chiefs were involved in a movement known as the Mau a Pule (the opinion of Pule) which sought to reinstate traditional Samoan practices abolished by the German colonial regime in the late nineteenth century. The leader of the movement was Lauaki Namulau'ulu, an orator of high standing from Safotulafai, one of the most senior villages in Savai'i. Lauaki and his followers, however,

failed to secure support from other factions in Samoa and they were subsequently exiled to distant Saipan by Governor Solf.

The Samoans established themselves on Saipan just south of the village of Tanapag. They built eleven fale, the distinctive round Samoan residential house, one each for the ten chiefs and one for the Samoan pastor and his family who accompanied the chiefs in exile. The German administration provided each family with tools, seeds and livestock. Water was brought in by bamboo piping from nearby Saddok Agaton and the people of Tanapag gave their new neighbors assistance. It is reported that the Samoans acclimated well since Saipan's environment was very similar to that of their homeland. The Samoans remained on Saipan until June 1915 when they were repatriated home by the Japanese military administration that had been on the island since October 1914.

The story of these political exiles was almost lost in time. No significant body of oral history regarding the Samoans survives in the Marianas. Local recollections about the Samoan presence are limited to a couple short magazine articles dating to the late 1960s. And the German, Japanese, and New Zealand/British government records associated with this event have not been readily available.

In the late 1990s, however, the Division of Historic Preservation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands did acquire an account written by the youngest exiled chief, Iga Pisa. Pisa's account, written in 1942, provides some details about exile life on Saipan but its main focus is Pisa's own remarkable voyage from Saipan to Guam in a small Samoan paddling canoe. Pisa was an ambitious youth and had spent his time on Saipan learning the German language with the aim of obtaining employment in the colonial government in Samoa after returning home. World War I, however, ended his plans when English-speaking New Zealanders replaced Germans as colonial administrators in what is now Independent Samoa.

Pisa decided that rather than return to his home unprepared, he would paddle his way to American-controlled Guam where he hoped to learn English. Without informing the elder chiefs, Pisa secretly departed Saipan at night in a borrowed Samoan paddling canoe. After reaching Rota in the Northern Marianas, where he was provided food and shelter by the Alcalde, Pisa continued on to Guam where he came ashore at Ritidian. After convincing the American military governor of his identity, he was given a job in the Navy printing office. Pisa quickly learned English and requested to be returned home in 1919. He then had a successful career in the local government. He was the only exiled chief to survive the influenza epidemic that claimed millions of lives worldwide in 1918. Today, Pisa is still remembered in Samoa for his daring voyage to Guam.

This month all of this remarkable piece of Pacific history will be remembered in a series of events arranged by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Dignitaries, scholars, and keepers of the islands' oral history will convene from Samoa, New Zealand, and the Mariana Islands. The culmination will be a farewell ceremony conducted in accordance with the precepts of Samoan culture.

In commemoration of this event and in remembrance of those Samoans, who were ex-

iled for their political beliefs, I submit this brief history.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONMOUTH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 1, 2015*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Monmouth Conservatory of Music on its 50th anniversary this year. The Monmouth Conservatory of Music has been a premier music school in New Jersey and this milestone is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

The only non-profit music school in Monmouth County, New Jersey, the Monmouth Conservatory of Music is a valuable and influential institution of the local arts community and an outstanding educational and recreational resource for the greater Monmouth County area. It focuses its efforts on reaching everyone in the community, including underserved populations, and works to make music education and experiences accessible to all, offering scholarships, lectures, programs and free public concerts. Its mission to introduce music to the general public and its positive impact on the community is commendable.

Founded in 1964 by Felix and Jeannette Molzer, the Monmouth Conservatory of Music remains dedicated to fostering musical excellence in its students and imparting the importance of musical education and musical understanding to future generations. Its commitment to promoting music has contributed to the thriving cultural landscape of the community. Under the direction of Artistic and Executive Director Vladislav Kovalsky and Associate Director Irina Kovalsky, the Monmouth Conservatory of Music offers expert teachers and high standards for its students. It is committed to enriching its students and the community through music.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the contributions and achievements of the Monmouth Conservatory of Music and honoring its 50th anniversary.

#### REMEMBERING MARCUS BELGRAVE

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 1, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and career of my friend and fellow Detroit, Marcus Belgrave, who passed away last Sunday, May 24th.

Mr. Belgrave was a consummate gentleman; a legendary jazz impresario; and a gifted player, composer, and teacher. It is difficult to fathom how one achieves all that Marcus did—he started his career at just 18 years old, playing with Ray Charles. He went on to share the stage with luminaries like Ella Fitzgerald, Charles Mingus, McCoy Tyner, Dizzy Gillespie, Eric Dolphy, Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, and Joe Henderson. Everyone has heard the power of his talent in